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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,860	10/24/2003	Peng-Ho Lin	P-1375	6721

35741 7590 02/23/2005

KUO-HSIUNG CHIU
13F., NO.23, JIUN-HO STREET, PEITUN DISTRICT
TAICHUNG, 406
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

TALBOT, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3722

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,860

Applicant(s)

LIN, PENG-HO

Examiner

Michael W Talbot

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the engaging element" and "the internal annular protrusion" in lines 7 and 18 respectively of claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin '114 in view Jore '654 and further in view of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503. Lin '114 shows in Figures 1 and 2 a coupling tube comprises a hollow main body (20) formed in a cylindrical shape with an engaging seat at one end adapted to receive a screwdriver bit and an insertion rod (22) at the opposing end, an external annular slot (23) communicating with an internal through hole (21) which receives a semicircular engaging member (70) within the slot to secure the bit, and a first engaging annular slot (24) which receives a first engaging ring member (50). Lin '114 further shows a socket (30) mounted on main body formed with a conic shaped slot

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(31) having an accommodation area in which a spring element (40) is received and a second engaging ring member (60) properly mounted to prevent the socket from separating from the main body. Lin '114 lacks the semicircular engaging member being of steel construction and the presence of a second engaging annular slot. Jore '654 teaches in col. 4, lines 16-20 an engaging member (52) being constructed of a spring steel material. In view of this teaching of Jore '654, it is considered to have been obvious to have the engaging member of Wang '384 made from a spring steel material to provide a more durable and resilient member and ultimately increase the life of the connection means.

Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503 shows the combination of the second engaging member (19) with a corresponding second engaging annular slot (122). In view of this teaching of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503, it is considered to have been obvious to modify the second engagement construction of Wang '384 to that of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503 to provide a much improved connection mechanism between the second engaging member and the second engaging slot to further prevent the socket from separating from the main body.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang '384 in view of Jore '654 and further in view of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503. Wang '384 shows in Figures 2-4 a coupling tube comprises a main body (1) formed in a cylindrical shape with an engaging seat at one end adapted to receive a screwdriver bit (8) and an insertion rod (13) at the opposing end, an external annular slot (11) communicating with an internal hole (10) which receives a semicircular engaging member (2) within the slot to secure the bit at the V-shaped indentations (82), and a first engaging annular slot (12) which receives a first engaging ring member (3). Wang '384 further shows a socket (6) mounted on main body formed with a conic shaped slot (61) having an accommodation area (60) in which a spring element (4) is received and a second engaging ring member (5) properly mounted to prevent the socket from

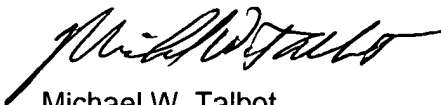
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separating from the main body. Wang '384 lacks the semicircular engaging member being of steel construction and the presence of a second engaging annular slot. Jore '654 teaches in col. 4, lines 16-20 an engaging member (52) being constructed of a spring steel material. In view of this teaching of Jore '654, it is considered to have been obvious to have the engaging member of Wang '384 made from a spring steel material to provide a more durable and resilient member and ultimately increase the life of the connection means.

Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503 shows the combination of the second engaging member (19) with a corresponding second engaging annular slot (122). In view of this teaching of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503, it is considered to have been obvious to modify the second engagement construction of Wang '384 to that of Fan-Chiang et al. 2004/0164503 to provide a much improved connection mechanism between the second engaging member and the second engaging slot to further prevent the socket from separating from the main body.

6. Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication from the examiner should be directed to Michael W. Talbot, whose telephone number is 571-272-4481. The examiner's office hours are typically 8:30am until 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, may be reached at 571-272-4419.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at FAX number 703-872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers, which require a fee, by applicants who authorize charges to a USPTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Michael W. Talbot of Art Unit 3722 at the top of your cover sheet.



Michael W. Talbot
Examiner
Art Unit 3722



Daniel W. Howell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3722